

Charter Amendment Questions and Explanatory Text

Pursuant to Section §7-191 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the following six questions regarding the proposed amendments to the Colchester Town Charter shall appear on the November 7, 2017 ballot for the Town of Colchester.

The following explanatory text has been prepared pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section §9-369b.

The final report of the Charter Revision Commission, which consists of the proposed revised Charter, a blacklined version of the Charter which shows changes to be made from the current Charter, proposed ballot questions and the Charter Revision Commission's Summary of Proposed Changes are on file in the Town Clerk's office. The Board of Selectmen approved the final report of the Charter Revision Commission and approved the six Charter revision questions that will appear on the ballot and are included below at its meeting held on September 7, 2017. The Board of Selectmen also approved the following explanatory text, including the detailed Charter sections related to each question contained herein, at its meeting held on September 25, 2017. The proposed amendments to the Charter, as shown in the proposed revised Charter, if approved, will become effective on December 7, 2017 (unless stated otherwise in the proposed Charter).

The following is an explanation of each of the six questions that will appear on the ballot. The sections or subsections of the Charter to be modified by each question are listed below the applicable question. In cases where the sections or subsections of the Charter have modifications relating to different questions, the changes to the section or subsection that would be modified if the question is approved is noted in parentheses. If there are no parentheses after the section or subsection number, all changes in that section or subsection apply to that question.

Question 1: Shall the Town Charter be amended to make grammatical, technical and other changes and clarifications?

The purpose of these amendments is to make the following types of changes to the Charter:

1. Grammatical changes throughout the Charter, such as capitalizing defined terms and making grammatical and style usage consistent.
2. Technical changes throughout the Charter, such as reorganizing several sections of the Charter and creating new defined terms to be used in the Charter. Two examples are: (1) the new defined term "Public Hearing"; and (2) the removal of the detailed descriptions of Town Departments from the Charter.
3. Other changes throughout the Charter. Two examples are: (1) detailing the succession provisions in the event of an opening on an Elected Board; and (2) allowing the Registrars of Voters to serve on appointed boards.
4. Clarifications throughout the Charter. Two examples are: (1) clarification that the Board of Finance is responsible for establishing the mill rate, as set forth in the General Statutes; and

(2) clarification that the Board of Selectmen is responsible for approving contracts, as opposed to executing them.

Question 1 includes all other amendments as shown in the proposed revised Charter, except for those amendments that are outlined in Questions 2 through 6 below.

Charter sections affected by Question 1:

The following section references are from the Charter **as revised by the proposed amendments:**

- C-101. Definitions
- C-103. General Powers of the Town, subsection B
- C-201. Elected Officials, subsection E
- C-203. Eligibility for Election of Elected Officials and Members of Elected Boards, subsection B
- C-203. Eligibility for Election of Elected Officials and Members of Elected Boards, subsection D
- C-204. Succession Provisions in the event of an opening on an Elected Board
- C-302. Powers and Duties of the First Selectman
- C-303. Succession Provisions, subsection C
- C-402. Powers and Duties of the Board of Selectmen, subsection B
- C-402. Powers and Duties of the Board of Selectmen, subsection D
- C-402. Powers and Duties of the Board of Selectmen, subsection F
- C-402. Powers and Duties of the Board of Selectmen, subsection G
- C-402. Powers and Duties of the Board of Selectmen, subsection H
- C-402. Powers and Duties of the Board of Selectmen, subsection J
- C-403. Limited Power to Adopt Town Ordinances
- C-404. Reserved
- C-405. Limited Power of Investigation
- C-601. The Board of Finance, subsection C
- C-601. The Board of Finance, subsection D
- C-602. The Board of Education
- C-603. The Board of Assessment Appeals, subsection A
- C-603. The Board of Assessment Appeals, subsection D
- C-701. Appointed Officials (the first sentence, subsection A and the last sentence and excluding the revisions in subsections B, C and D which are in Questions 4, 5 and 6)
- C-702. Appointed Boards
- C-704. Removal of Appointed Officials
- C-705. Eligibility and Appointment of Members of Appointed Boards
- C-706. Removal of Members of Appointed Boards, subsection A
- C-707. Appointment of Alternates to Appointed Boards
- Article IX Reserved
- C-1001. The Town Meeting, subsection A
- C-1003. Procedure
- C-1105a. Annual Budget Meeting, subsection A (If Question 1 is approved and Question 3 is not approved, then the revisions shown in the proposed revised Charter shall be made to Section 1002, subsection A of the existing Charter)
- C-1201. Town Departments

C-1202. Reserved
C-1203. Reserved
C-1204. Reserved
C-1205. Reserved
C-1206. Reserved
C-1207. Reserved
C-1208. Reserved
C-1301. Town Employees and Appointed Officials
C-1502. Existing Laws and Ordinances
C-1505. Appointment of Justices of the Peace
C-1506. Reserved

The following section references are from the **existing Charter**:

C-101. Definitions
C-103. General Powers of the Town, subsection B
C-203. Eligibility for Election of Elected Officials and Members of Elected Boards, subsection B
C-203. Eligibility for Election of Elected Officials and Members of Elected Boards, subsection D
C-302. Powers and Duties of the First Selectman
C-303. Succession Provisions, subsection C
C-402. Powers and Duties of the Board of Selectmen, subsection B
C-402. Powers and Duties of the Board of Selectmen, subsection D
C-402. Powers and Duties of the Board of Selectmen, subsection F
C-402. Powers and Duties of the Board of Selectmen, subsection G
C-402. Powers and Duties of the Board of Selectmen, subsection H
C-402. Powers and Duties of the Board of Selectmen, subsection J
C-403. Limited Power to Adopt Ordinances
C-404. Vacancies on the Board of Selectmen
C-405. Limited Power of Investigation
C-601. The Board of Finance, subsection C
C-601. The Board of Finance, subsection D
C-602. The Board of Education
C-603. The Board of Assessment Appeals, subsection A
C-603. The Board of Assessment Appeals, subsection D
C-701. Appointed Officials
C-702. Appointed Boards
C-704. Removal of Appointed Officials
C-705. Eligibility and Appointment of Members of Appointed Boards
C-706. Removal of Members of Appointed Boards, subsection A
C-707. Appointment of Alternates to Appointed Boards
C-901. The Police Commission
C-902. The Sewer and Water Commission
C-1001. The Town Meeting, subsection A
C-1002. Annual Budget Meeting, subsection A
C-1003. Procedure
C-1201. Town Departments

C-1202. The Department of Finance
C-1203. The Department of Public Works
C-1204. The Department of Planning and Zoning
C-1205. The Department of Public Health
C-1206. The Department of Parks and Recreation
C-1207. The Department of Code Administration
C-1208. The Department of Engineering
C-1301. Town Employees and Appointed Officials
C-1502. Existing Laws and Ordinances
C-1505. Appointment of Justices of the Peace
C-1506. Quarterly Meeting

Question 2: Shall the Town Charter be amended to change the terms of office of the position of First Selectman, and members of the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance and Board of Assessment Appeals, to four year terms?

The purpose of this amendment is to change the terms of the offices of the position of First Selectman and the members of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Assessment Appeals from two years to four years. This amendment will also change the terms of office of the members of the Board of Finance from six years to four years. The terms will become effective beginning with the Municipal Election in 2019.

Charter sections affected by Question 2:

The following section references are from the Charter **as revised by the proposed amendments:**

C-301. Manner of Election and Term of Office
C-401. Manner of Election and Term of Office
C-601. The Board of Finance, subsection B
C-603. The Board of Assessment Appeals, subsection B

The following section references are from the **existing Charter:**

C-301. Manner of Election and Term of Office
C-401. Manner of Election and Term of Office
C-601. The Board of Finance, subsection B
C-603. The Board of Assessment Appeals, subsection B

Question 3: Shall the Town Charter be amended to make changes to the annual budget meeting and update the approval of financial matters?

The purpose of this amendment is to revise the provisions regarding the actions to be considered at Town Meetings and to make other revisions regarding or related to Town Meetings, Special Referenda, Special Budget Referenda, the Annual Budget Meeting and the Annual Budget Referendum, recounts of Special Referenda, Special Budget Referenda and Annual Budget Referendum, real estate purchases, sales and transfers, leases, bonds, budget transfers, supplemental appropriations and grant programs.

Charter sections affected by Question 3:

The following section references are from the Charter **as revised by the proposed amendments:**

C-402. Powers and Duties of the Board of Selectmen, subsection I
C-1001. The Town Meeting, subsection B(1)
C-1001. The Town Meeting, subsection B(2)
C-1001. The Town Meeting, subsection B(3)
C-1001. The Town Meeting, subsection B(4)
C-1001. The Town Meeting, subsection B(5)
C-1001. The Town Meeting, subsection C
C-1002. Reserved
C-1101. Reserved
C-1102. Special Referenda
C-1103. Special Budget Referenda
C-1104. Recount of Special Referenda and Special Budget Referenda
C-1105a. Annual Budget Meeting, subsection B
C-1105a. Annual Budget Meeting, subsection C
C-1105a. Annual Budget Meeting, subsection D
C-1105a. Annual Budget Meeting, subsection E
C-1106a. The Annual Budget Referendum
C-1106b. Recount of Annual Budget Referendum
C-1107a. Real Estate Purchases, Sales and Transfers
C-1108a. Leases
C-1109a. Bonds
C-1110a. Budget Transfers
C-1111a. Supplemental Appropriations
C-1112a. Grant Programs

The following section references are from the **existing Charter:**

C-402. Powers and Duties of the Board of Selectmen, subsection I
C-1001. The Town Meeting, subsection B(1)
C-1001. The Town Meeting, subsection B(2)
C-1001. The Town Meeting, subsection B(3)
C-1001. The Town Meeting, subsection B(4)

C-1001. The Town Meeting, subsection B(5)
C-1001. The Town Meeting, subsection B(6)
C-1001. The Town Meeting, subsection B(7)
C-1001. The Town Meeting, subsection B(8)
C-1001. The Town Meeting, subsection B(9)
C-1001. The Town Meeting, subsection B(10)
C-1001. The Town Meeting, subsection B(11)
C-1001. The Town Meeting, subsection B(12)
C-1001. The Town Meeting, subsection C
C-1002. Annual Budget Meeting, subsection B
C-1002. Annual Budget Meeting, subsection C
C-1002. Annual Budget Meeting, subsection D
C-1002. Annual Budget Meeting, subsection E
C-1101. The Annual Budget Referendum
C-1102. Special Budget Referendums
C-1103. Special Referendums
C-1104. Recount of Annual Budget Referendum or Special Referendums

Question 4: Shall the Town Charter be amended to eliminate the position of an elected Town Treasurer and transfer the statutory duties of a Town Treasurer to the Town Department of Finance?

The purpose of this amendment is to eliminate the position of an elected Town Treasurer, and allow the Board of Selectmen to transfer the statutory duties of a town treasurer to the Chief Financial Officer, or other Appointed Official, Department Head or Town Employee.

Charter sections affected by Question 4:

The following section references are from the Charter as revised by the proposed amendments:

C-201. Elected Officials, subsection D
C- 503. Reserved
C-701. Appointed Officials, subsection D

The following section references are from the existing Charter:

C-201. Elected Officials, subsection D
C-503. The Treasurer

Question 5: Shall the Town Charter be amended to change the position of Tax Collector from an elected position to an appointed position?

The purpose of this amendment is to change the Tax Collector position from an elected position to a position appointed by the Board of Selectmen.

Charter sections affected by Question 5:

The following section references are from the Charter **as revised by the proposed amendments:**

- C-201. Elected Officials, subsection C
- C-502. Reserved
- C-701. Appointed Officials, subsection B

The following section references are from the **existing Charter:**

- C-201. Elected Officials, subsection C
- C-502. Tax Collector

Question 6: Shall the Town Charter be amended to change the position of Town Clerk from an elected position to an appointed position?

The purpose of this amendment is to change the Town Clerk position from an elected position to a position appointed by the Board of Selectmen.

Charter sections affected by Question 6:

The following section references are from the Charter **as revised by the proposed amendments:**

- C-201. Elected Officials, subsection B
- C-501. Reserved
- C-701. Appointed Officials, subsection C

The following section references are from the **existing Charter:**

- C-201. Elected Officials, subsection B
- C-501. The Town Clerk